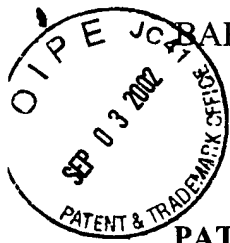


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**PATENT APPLICATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Customer No.: 23644

Application No.: 09/993,386

Confirmation

No.: 4933

Filing Date: 16 November 2001

Attorney

Docket No.: 29947/92661

First Named

Inventor: HOSSLER, Brad E

Group Art

Unit: 3613

Examiner

Name: not yet assigned

Title:

*ROPE LOCKING DEVICE WITH  
AUTOMATIC SAFETY MECHANISM*

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

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on August 23, 2002

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
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Sir:

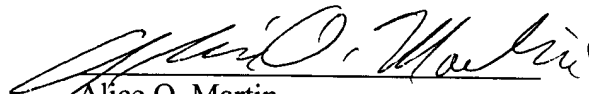
In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. A copy of the references cited are being provided herewith for review by the Examiner.

No representation is intended that a complete search has been made of the prior art, or that prior art references other than those listed on the attached form are not available. The citation of these references shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is considered material to patentability of the subject invention.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Please charge any fees that might be due in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Barnes & Thornburg Deposit Account No. 10-0435.  
(29947/92661)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Alice O. Martin  
Reg. No. 35601  
(317) 236-1313

Date: August 23, 2002

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

## Complete if Known

Application Number:	09/993386
Filing Date:	November 16, 2001
First Named Inventor:	HOSSLER, Brad E
Group Art Unit	3613
Examiner Name	not yet assigned
Attorney Docket Number:	29947/92661

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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initials	Cite No. 1	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A.1	4,278,042	Jul. 14, 1981	Lindquist	
	A.2	5,531,297	Jul. 02, 1996	Pipan	
	A.3	5,855,251	Jan. 5, 1999	Deuer	
	A.4				
	A.5				
	A.6				
	A.7				
	A.8				
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		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	A.15					
	A.16					
	A.17					
	A.18					
	A.19					

EXAMINER

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FORM PTO/SB/08A  
(REV. 10-96)

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Application Number	09/993386
Filing Date	November 16, 2001
First Named Inventor	HOSSLER, Brad E
Group Art Unit	3613
Examiner Name	not yet assigned
Attorney Docket Number	29947 92661

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**OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials\*

Cite  
No.<sup>1</sup>

Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

T<sup>2</sup>

A.1

Custom Rigging Systems. "Introducing The Magic-Loc" Greensboro NC 27405

A.2

Printout of Website: www.tiffinscenic.com (July 22, 2002)

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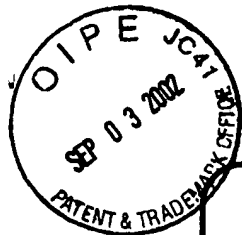
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	<b>Application</b>	09/993,386	
	<b>Filing Date</b>	16 November 2001	
	<b>First Named</b>	HOSSLER, Brad E.	
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	3613	
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	not yet assigned	
<b>Total Number of Pages in This Submission</b>	43	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	29947-92661

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10

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<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
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Firm or Individual name	Alice O. Martin
Signature	<i>Alice O. Martin</i>
Date	8/23/02

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